



Fort Sam Houston

News Leader®



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Fort Sam Houston — Home of Army Medicine

December 11, 2003

Post to host information fair, Dec. 17

The U.S. Army Fort Sam Houston Garrison command is conducting an environmental assessment to evaluate the impacts of mandatory access control requirements at FSH gates. The FSH community and the public are invited to an information fair that will be held on Dec. 17, 7-9 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church Community Center. Exhibits will describe and discuss the scope of the assessment, current access control points, and proposed alternatives which are being analyzed during the study. Written public comments turned in at the information fair will be addressed in writing in the environmental analysis. After the information fair, FSH will write a draft environmental assessment document. FSH will make the draft available for an additional public comment period which will be advertised separately at a later date.

ACS and AER closed tomorrow

Army Community Service and Army Emergency Relief will be closed Dec. 12 due to mandatory training. Should you require emergency assistance, call Garrison Staff Duty Officer at 221-2810 or the American Red Cross at 1 (877) 272-7238.

FSH ISD Board Meeting, Dec. 18

The Fort Sam Houston ISD Board of Trustees will meet Dec. 18, 11 a.m. at the FSH ISD Professional Development Center, 1908 Winans Road.



The Escaramuza Rosas de Castilla, an equestrienne drill team, known for their intricate side-saddle and bareback skills, performed at the 15th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor, Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair held Dec. 7 at the MacArthur Parade grounds.

FSH last stop for Pony Express couriers

Story and photo by Esher Garcia
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

MacArthur Field was filled with exhibits, displays, and colorful horseback and roping demonstrations throughout the day on Saturday. Fort Sam Houston served as the host site for the 15th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor, Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair. The event celebrates the historic Texas La Bahia Corridor that was an important trade route in early Texas.

The post garage sale, Texas Agriculture "Go Texan" program vendors, classic cars, Christmas music, and the aroma of hamburgers cooking on the grill at the Youth Services food station created a festive atmosphere. The program began with demonstrations of Native American dances by the San Antonio American Indian community, followed by bareback equestrian drills by Escaramuza Rosas de Castilla. The Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association and the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Mounted Posse performed classic military cavalry and western rodeo riding demonstrations.

The Connections Living History Association mounted color guard presented the Six Flags over Texas. Patrick McKenzie led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the national anthem played by the Texas Army National Guard 49th Armored Division Band.

The Pony Express Couriers arrived to the tune of Gary Owen. Couriers then demonstrated the traditional courier hand-off at full gallop. Courier Mike Hallmark presented Texas Governor Rick Perry's Christmas message for the San Antonio and Fort Sam Houston communities to Texas Adjutant General Lt. Gen. Wayne Marty. Following Marty's reading of the message, the Pony Express riders rode off into the sunset across MacArthur Field.

Jimmy Brought Fitness Center extends holiday hours, offers variety of programs

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Bldg. 320, Wilson Road, will extend its hours of operation for weekends and holidays beginning Saturday, Dec. 13.

The new hours for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Pool will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hours were changed based on a recent customer survey conducted by the Sports and Fitness Branch.

The new hours will be in effect during exodus, Dec. 20 through Jan. 2. However, the Center will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Visit the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center during the exodus and get involved in their fitness programs.

Additional program information and hours are on Page 24.

The Commander
United States Army Garrison Fort Sam Houston
presents

A Holiday Concert

Featuring

The United States Army Medical Command Band

7:30 PM
18 December 2003
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Avenue E at 4th Street
San Antonio Texas

HHH continues to spread holiday cheer

By Nancy Moore
Special to the News Leader

The Holiday Helping Hands Program at Fort Sam Houston is operating at full speed. Every aspect of this program supports FSH Soldier, retiree, and DA civilian families who need food and toy assistance to help make the holiday season a joyous one.

To date, more than 350 families were given food vouchers for Thanksgiving totaling \$11,500. Approximately 400 families have requested Christmas food assistance and 800 children are on the list for Christmas toys. Volunteers, new toys and monetary donations are still needed to help these families have a joyful Christmas. Consider supporting one or more of the following activities:

HHH Toy Warehouse Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Dec. 16

Col. Gary Atkins, U.S. Army Garrison commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Gray will officially open the HHH Toy Warehouse with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m., Bldg. 2265, between Wilson and Stanley Roads at Connell Road. The Toy Warehouse will

be stocked with toys for children ages' birth through 17 years and will be open for parents with vouchers to shop on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Dec. 17, 18, and 19, 4-8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No children are permitted in the Toy Warehouse. Organizations are encouraged to host a toy drive now. Call elf Linda Wenck at 221-3688 to arrange for toy pick-up. Individuals may drop off toys at the warehouse between 3 and 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16 or bring them to the HHH Gift Wrap Booth next to the PX during regular PX operating hours. In an effort to provide age-appropriate toys, children, birth-24 months and teens, age 12-17 provide the greatest challenge, so toys/gifts for boys and girls in those age groups are especially welcome. Call elf Julie Vasquez at 221-1582 to help at the HHH Toy Warehouse or to donate larger toys, e.g. tricycles, bikes, wagons, riding toys, skateboards.

HHH Gift Booth

Donations received at the HHH Gift Wrap Booth provide the funds for Christmas food vouchers. Located in a trailer next to the PX, this

Clark thanks those who stood by him during the struggle to the command

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. C.S. Allbright
Fifth U.S. Army Public Affairs

With a joyful yet humbled tone, Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark thanked those who stood by him through controversy surrounding his nomination for promotion and command of the Fifth U.S. Army. Clark was promoted to lieutenant general and assumed command of the Fifth U.S. Army in a ceremony Dec. 5 at the unit’s headquarters located in the historic Quadrangle.

Clark, who was previously the deputy commanding general since 2000, took over as acting commander after Lt. Gen. Freddy E. McFarren retired in August this year. Clark was awaiting confirmation by the U.S. Senate, which came on Nov. 18.

General Larry R. Ellis, the FORSCOM commanding general, hosted the ceremony that took place on a windy Friday morning with about 250 people in attendance. Among those were senior military officers, Civilian Aides to the Secretary Army, civilian employees, Soldiers from

throughout the 21-state Fifth U.S. Army area, friends of the Clarks, and about 35 relatives of the Clarks, some from as far away as Alaska.

“Today we honor a distinguished military family and pass the colors to a new command team for this great unit,” said Ellis, who selected Clark to succeed McFarren. “What a terrific day for Bob and Karen Clark and our Army.”

“Bob brings to the Fifth Army more than 33 years of service and is simply a terrific officer,” Ellis said recounting Clark’s accomplishments in both combat in Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm, and during peacetime preparations. “Bob has commanded at every level in our Army, and he has established a reputation as a great trainer and as a great operator.”

Ellis lauded the Fifth U.S. Army is contributions to the nations’ defense since its 1943 activation in Morocco. Recently, Fifth U.S. Army has taken on many missions related to homeland defense and preparing Soldiers for mobilization to areas around the world.

“Since the attack of 9/11, Fifth Army



Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark speaks at his promotion and assumption of command ceremony at the historic quadrangle on Dec. 5.

has been busier than anytime in its history as a crucial member of our nation’s war on global terrorism. Fifth Army has trained, mobilized, and deployed forces in support of Noble Eagle here in the United States, to SFOR and KFOR in the Balkans, to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, to the Sinai for the Multinational Force for the observation

mission, and to Kuwait and Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom,” Ellis recounted. “Fifth Army has already mobilized more than 90,000 Soldiers and now in training is the second round of Soldiers to be deployed in the coming months.” Ellis singled out Clark’s advances in training readiness while Clark command-

See **Clark** on Page 3

Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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Clark

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ed Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne Division. “Bob orchestrated division-level exercises that notably improved readiness of the division and gained Army-wide attention on the rigorous demands on both the maneuver and the supporting units.”

During Clark’s tenure at Fort Campbell, an allegedly homosexual Soldier was brutally murdered in the barracks. One Soldier, a member of the victim’s company, was convicted by general court-martial of premeditated murder and is serving a life sentence. Another Soldier, the victim’s roommate, was sentenced to 12-and-a-half years imprisonment for his role in the crime. Clark’s nomination for promotion was opposed by some gay advocacy organizations who voiced their opposition to members of Congress, effectively delaying congressional action on the nomination.

Two Army chiefs of staff, many senior military officers, Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army, friends and family stood by Clark during the 16 month long confirmation process. On Nov. 18, with bipartisan support from members of the United States Senate, Clark was confirmed.

As Clark spoke to the assembled crowd with a cool wind whipping around the historic quadrangle, he was clearly moved by the support.

“I don’t think it would be proper for me to stand here and be promoted without saying few words about the experience the Clarks have been through the past couple of years. Some of them have been challenging. As is always the case in difficult circumstances, those closest to you are the first you turn to,” Clark said.

The newly promoted general thanked his family and friends, telling the audience he still owed supporters thank-you notes and phone calls. He thanked many people specifically, including General Ellis. “It’s been almost two years since you endorsed me for the job as Freddy McFarren’s successor, and I thank you for hanging tough with me for these many months. I couldn’t be happier about this job, and I appreciate your sustained support.”

Clark stood in the quadrangle speaking where Ellis earlier said the ghosts of thousands of frontier Soldiers “thundered.”

Clark, who is a San Antonio native, recalled his own proud military heritage. “I’m a third generation career Soldier. Both of my grandfathers were career officers. My dad’s dad served as an Army doctor for 38 years. My mother’s dad served for 37 years as a cavalryman and an infantryman,” Clark said. “My mom and dad love the Army. They always have and they always will.”

Clark’s father served for 31 years in the Army and fought in both World War II and Korea. In World War II, Clark’s father served with the Fourth Cavalry, and “he fought under his father-in-law, Joe Tully, commander of the Fourth Cavalry Group,” Clark said.

From both wars, Clark’s father came home with Silver Star Medals and Purple Hearts from combat action. In Korea, where he was seriously wounded, he also received the Distinguished Service Cross. Recently, Clark speaking before a group of World War II veterans, called his dad, who still lives in San Antonio, “my hero.”

As he spoke, Clark seemed to be standing on that proud military tradition as the sun broke through the clouds during his speech.

“Over the past year or so, I’ve often been asked, why I didn’t just hang it up and retire? After all, we’ve had a wonderful 33 years career, and we didn’t need the controversy that we’ve experienced in the recent past,” Clark said. “And, I have to admit that I thought about doing just that, and I’ve confided in some of you in this audience to that point. That would’ve put an end to the stress on this family and to the Army. But I didn’t hang it up, because I couldn’t bear the thought of leaving the Army under those conditions.”

Clark ultimately decided that he couldn’t walk away from the institution that was such an integral part of his family’s heritage without seeing it through to the end. “How could I walk away from it knowing that I would regret the decision for the rest of my life? I had to see this thing through to the end, and I’m glad that I did,” Clark said.

He then turned his attention to the “important work,” to prepare Soldiers for war.

“We have just deployed the 45th Enhanced Separate Brigade from Oklahoma to Afghanistan. There they are



General Larry R. Ellis, FORSCOM commanding general, returns the Fifth Army guidon to Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, as he takes charge of the unit at the assumption of command ceremony on Dec. 5 at the historic quadrangle.

training the Afghan National Army so that country can stand up on its own,” Clark said. “And at Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Lewis, Washington, today we are training two more brigades for combat and stability and support operations in Iraq. There are another 20,000 troops mobilizing at installations around the country preparing to deploy into harm’s way, and thousands pulling security at sensitive sights at federal installations around the country.

“Our Fifth Army Soldiers are the best trainers in the world. I’m confident in their ability to get these troops ready to go. There is no place in the Army I’d rather be than with this wonderful Fifth Army team.”

After the ceremony, there was a reception at the newly promoted general’s post quarters. At the reception, the Clark family was able to express thanks for the support they received.

Dan Green, a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army from Texas, said, “This ceremony was long overdue. I couldn’t be happier for General Clark. He

has had a real distinguished career and it was a real privilege to be at his promotion ceremony this morning.”

Fellow CASA from Kentucky, and a longtime Clark family friend, Anna Caryl Guffey echoed the remarks, “I think it is a great day for America and it’s a great day for the Army, because Bob Clark is without question one of the most honorable men that I’ve ever known in my life, and one of the best Soldiers and officers that I’ve ever known.”

Guffey said that she’s known the Clark family for 17 years and has seen him rise up through the ranks from battalion command through his current position today. Guffey echoed many people’s thoughts in expressing gratitude that Clark remained vigilant through the long fight. “The Army needs officers like Bob Clark, and you cannot just give in when you know you are right. I think you have to continue to battle.”

Clark takes over a unit with a proud, 60-year history with much to accomplish in the future.

HHH

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booth is staffed by volunteers Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Dec. 23. Anyone can bring items for wrapping no matter where they were purchased, and boxes are available at the booth. Patrons can wait for their wrapped gifts or drop them off and return later to pick them up that same day. Volunteers are asked to give two or more hours of service and are still needed for some days. Contact Elf, Emily Cunningham at 657-1896 to help or for information.

HHH Toy Delivery Christmas Eve
HHH Home Toy Delivery happens on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24. After Santa and his elves visit BAMC and the Fisher House, they go through the Fort Sam Houston housing areas and deliver gifts to children by name. Parents must help to make this happen for their family. Parents should provide a wrapped gift for their child and bring it to the Toy Warehouse, where it will be tagged with the child’s name and address for delivery. Only families living on Fort Sam Houston may participate and must plan to be at home, Christmas Eve



Photo by Rob Wood

Left to right, Holiday Helping Hands volunteers Joseph Cano, Philomena Anderson, Delores Poole and Arlene Cano take time to pose with one of the biggest gifts they have wrapped so far.

between 6 and 9 p.m. Parents shopping with toy vouchers may also arrange for those toys to be delivered by Santa. Wrapped gifts should be brought to the Toy Warehouse, Bldg. 2265, during the

following times: Tuesday, Dec.16, 3-5 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Dec. 17,18, and 19, 4-8 p.m. and Saturday Dec. 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers and ‘elves’ are needed to support the toy

home delivery. Call elf Tom May at 221-3283 to help.

HHH Food and Toy Vouchers
HHH food and toy vouchers will be distributed on Monday, Dec. 15 to the designated unit representatives between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Dodd Field Chapel. Qualified Soldiers and civilians will receive their individual vouchers from their unit representatives.

Retirees should pick up their vouchers at the Chaplain’s Office, Bldg. 2530, next to Burger King. Call elf Robb Wood at 221-5428, concerning food/toy voucher questions.

For the past eight years, Holiday Helping Hands has provided more than \$250,000 in holiday food and toy assistance to those in the Fort Sam Houston community who need that extra help to make their holidays merry and bright. World events and economic constraints have made the need greater than ever this year. Through this united effort the Soldiers, civilians and retirees who demonstrate a need, know that the Fort Sam Houston military community cares so that all can celebrate the joys of this holiday season.



Rene Agosto adds his gifts under the Holiday Helping Hands tree outside the ballroom.

Holiday Ball captures spirit of the season

Story and photos by Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Dinner and entertainment followed a social hour that began the 2003 installation Holiday Ball. Ball guests brought presents piled high under the Holiday Helping Hands Christmas tree in the NCO Club foyer. The highlight every year is the group performance of the “Twelve Days of Christmas.”

Brig. Gen. Sheila Baxter and retired Col. Frank Novier officiated the presentation of the Order of Military Medical Merit. Recipients this year include Col. Brenda Mosley, Lt. Col. Teresa McPherson, Lt. Col. Toni Massenburg, Lt. Col. Bruce McVeigh, Lt. Col. Brian Shaw, Command Sgt. Maj. Jackie McFadden, 1st Sgt. Jeffords Hewitt, 1st Sgt. Robert Krumeich, 1st. Sgt. Edward Oswald, Master Sgt. Arnold Campbell, Master Sgt. Bernard Richardson, and retired Master Sgt. Tina Thomas. Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Martinez was presented the Noble Patron of Armor award.



Brig. Gen. Sheila Baxter, assistant surgeon general, officially closes the ball program and opens the dance floor for continued festivities.



Co-hosts Col. Steve Carter and Col. Garry Atkins enjoy Holiday Ball entertainment with Col. Johnny West, who served as Holiday Ball committee chairman.



Sgt. Melissa Gomez, Law Enforcement Command, entertains ball guests with Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Vanderlin, Academy Battalion, and Spc. Carlyne Horton, Special Troops Battalion.



Col. Garry Atkins announces recipients of the Order of Military Medical Merit.

DoD health officials prescribe protection against deadly flu virus

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA
American Forces Press Service

With flu season here and deadly outbreaks of the virus being reported across the country, Defense Department health care officials are urging military personnel, DoD civilians and family members to get vaccinated.

Dr. David Tornberg, deputy assistant secretary of defense for clinical and program policy, advises that the “most protective” measure to prevent or lessen the harshness of the virus is to get vaccinated annually.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the flu is caused by the influenza virus, which infects the nose, throat and lungs. The flu usually spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, sending the virus into the air.

Unlike other viral respiratory infections like the common cold, the flu causes severe illness and can be life-threatening in many people. Symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion and body aches. Tornberg said while the vaccine is not 100 percent effective in preventing the flu virus, it is “100 percent effective in reducing” the severity of symptoms that many people will encounter. “And for many people it is an absolute immunity against the virus,” he noted.

Tornberg further suggested that people should take preventive measures to protect themselves, such as avoiding or being in close contact with anyone who may have the flu.

He also stressed the importance of frequent hand washing. He pointed out that hands transmit the virus, which can exist on surfaces.

In addition, he emphasized that people minimize contact between their hands, mouths and eyes. “If their hands are contaminated, they can very well infect themselves through transmission through the eye and its secretions, the nose or

oral pathway,” Tornberg said.

Another recommendation: Lead a healthy lifestyle. “Adequate rest and nutrition and hydration are very important as part of a daily approach keeping the body healthy to fight off disease,” he noted.

Tornberg said these protective measures should become part of people's daily activities to keep from getting the flu virus.

“Combined with the flu vaccine, personal health care measures such as hand washing and hygiene all will go a long way to minimizing the chances of getting sick,” he emphasized.

Although last year at this time DoD health officials were faced with a more serious form of respiratory illness-- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, that is not the case this year.

Tornberg said that the World Health Organization has not reported any cases of SARS anywhere in the world and that there are no reported cases among U.S. military personnel.

SARS has flu-like symptoms that include fever, body aches, headaches, sore throat, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. According to CDC, the syndrome may be associated with other symptoms, including headache, muscular stiffness and loss of appetite, malaise, confusion, rash and diarrhea.

Nevertheless, Tornberg said that if a person is experiencing symptoms of influenza or SARS, he or she should consult a doctor to obtain definitive care and diagnosis to prevent spreading the condition to friends and family and associates.

“That’s where public health measures come into play,” he said. “The public needs to be proactive with regard to respiratory diseases. We need basically to stay aware, follow the news and understand where potential pockets of illness may be, whether it is flu or even greater concern, SARS.”

Brooke Army Medical Center Accreditation Notice

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of Brooke Army Medical Center on Dec. 15-19. The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization’s compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with

organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission’s field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and

should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to: Division of Accreditation Operations Office of Quality Monitoring Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, One Renaissance Boulevard, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., 60181 or, faxed to (630)792-5636, or e-mail to

complaint@jcaho.org.

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

This notice is posted in accordance with the Joint Commission’s requirements and may not be removed before the survey is complete.

Army Chief of Staff leads Soldiers to be ‘adaptive’

By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

The Army’s chief of staff said he wants Soldiers to be more adaptive, and he’s leading by example by becoming acclimated to being thrust into the media limelight.

“Both junior Soldiers and leaders need to be more adaptive and capable of doing a wider range of missions with a greater degree of skill,” Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said during an hour-long interview Dec. 4,

a portion of which will be aired later this month on Army Newswatch. “Leaders can’t just manage change, they have to lead it.”

Schoomaker, who regularly uses analogies to explain his points, compared his definition of an adaptive Soldier to a track team. “We’re not looking for an individual who is just good at sprinting a quarter mile or throwing a javelin,” Schoomaker said. “We’re looking for someone who can compete in a decathlon or pentathlon.”

An example of more versatile Soldiers

is the 1,200 National Guard troops who will be reclassified from field artillery and air defense artillerymen to military police. A total of 10 units will rotate into Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for the 5-week training, said officials from the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office.

The new job specialty will assist guardsmen in supporting the Global War on Terrorism, but when and where they will deploy has not been released, officials said.

The retraining of the guardsmen supports Schoomaker’s vision of reorganizing the Army to be more “Relevant and Ready.”

Relevant and Ready is all about anticipation, Schoomaker said. It’s not about preparing for yesterday’s challenges, he added.

“My measuring stick is not if we’re the best army in the world, but are we as good as we can and should be,” Schoomaker said. “There’s one million Soldiers in the total Army, and not all of that structure is as available to us as it should be.”

Part of the Army’s new Transformation goal is to transform Soldiers from pure

specialties to being warriors first, Schoomaker said. Soldiers must be able to protect themselves, live in the field and understand the fundamentals of being a Soldier, he added.

Since assuming his position, Schoomaker hasn’t announced a new weapons system or any changes to the military uniform, but he is focusing on ways to immediately improve the Army.

His 16 focus areas have been dubbed “The Way Ahead.” At

the top of the list, which can be found at www.army.mil, is “Soldier” and Schoomaker said the Army is investing in the quality of the Soldier and not the quantity.

Increasing the number of military personnel currently serving is not the key to fighting terrorism, Schoomaker and his service counterparts said during a recent conference on national security.

“If we add to the force, we run the risk of not having money for ammunition, fuel and the money to modernize,” Schoomaker said. “You cannot overcome challenges with a mere quantitative edge, it’s the quality of the Soldier.”

However, Schoomaker said that he would not totally dismiss the notion of increasing troop end strength, but it’s not currently in the plans.



Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker
Army Chief of Staff

Use ‘good judgment’ as guide to workplace holiday activities, events

The holiday season charges full speed ahead, and holiday parties abound. Take the time this season to savor parties with your friends, family and co-workers. During this season, be sensitive to the fact that not everyone celebrates the same holidays. What we call the celebration, how we refer to the season, and our greetings to one another should reflect this. At times, generic holiday references may be the most appropriate greeting.

To make any workplace events enjoyable, and in compliance with the law, please observe some basic workplace ground rules.

Use of Government Time - Some holiday celebrations may occur on Government time, but only up to a point. Time taken for an actual event, like an office “Potluck” or a luncheon at a restaurant is not usually a problem. However, preparation for these events may become an issue. The key here is “good judgment.” Supervisors may permit some use of holiday time for preparations, but preparing for holiday events should not become a significant part of any employee’s duties.

For example: A committee of employees should not spend two duty days visiting potential restaurants to explore facilities and menus, followed by another two days worth of time to disseminate information to the rest of the group and develop a consensus, followed by another trip to make final arrangements. On the other hand a few telephone calls during the day requesting faxes from restaurants, a couple of short planning discussions in the office, and visiting one or two restaurants during lunch would be permissible.

Fundraising - Parties cost money. How can you cover the cost of a holiday party without overstepping the legal boundaries? The general rule is “no fundraising in the Federal workplace.” But for office events, there is an exception.

For an office event, the DoD Joint Ethics Regulation, 5500.7-R, permits employees to raise money among their members for their own benefit when approved by the head of the organization and the Ethics Counselor. For example, employees may have a bake sale to help defray the cost of tickets.

Checklist for workplace holiday parties:

- Keep it low key.
- Use minimal Government time. No duty time should be used to bake or purchase cookies. Some minimal time during the day may be used to plan the sale. Employees conducting the sale should do so on their own personal time.
- Government equipment, such as computers and printers, may be used at no cost to the Government. Items, such as placards and announcements, may not be ordered from the audio-visual office. Use of Government resources requires “good judgment.”
- Do not solicit outside sources (such as employees of support contractors) to contribute baked goods.
- Contractor employees and visitors who become aware of the bake sale may purchase items. The important thing is that we do not personally solicit them, or engage in solicitation that targets them.
- Outside sources, such as local restaurants, car dealerships, department stores, professional associations, and contractors may not be solicited for donations, to include door prizes.
- Raffles may not be used to raise money for office functions.

Attendance at Parties - All employees and contractors are free to attend a private party hosted by a Federal employee. Food, refreshments and entertainment may be shared and enjoyed. Subordinates may bring hospitality gifts, such as a bottle of wine, but they must not be lavish. Hospitality gifts are not strictly limited to

\$10 in value, but this should guide your use of “good judgment.” However, hospitality gifts from contractor employees are strictly limited to \$20 in value. Ideally hospitality gifts will be edible.

Federal employees may accept free attendance at a private party hosted by a contractor or a contractor employee if any of the following conditions apply. If none apply, then the invitation must be declined or the employee must pay for attendance:

- The average cost per guest does not exceed \$20.
- The invitation is based on a bona fide personal relationship with the contractor employee – not just a congenial office relationship.
- The party qualifies as a “widely-attended gathering” – that is, there will be more than 20 attendees representing a diversity of views and backgrounds, and the employee’s supervisor determines that it is in the agency’s best interest for the employee to attend.
- The contractor is having an open house, open to the public or to all government employees or military personnel in the area.
- The invitation is offered to a group or class that is not related to Government employment, such as all GEICO, PFCU or USAA customers.
- You have been assigned to represent the Army at an official function.

Contractor employees may attend our celebrations. Follow these guidelines with contractor employees:

- There should be no official encouragement for someone else’s employees to leave their workplace. We can let it be known that they may attend and will be a welcome party of the event.
- Contractor employee time off, and the nature of the time off are between the contractor and its employees. Accordingly, the contractor must decide if, and under what conditions its employees may be absent.

- Contractor employees may not be tasked or asked to organize holiday events.

Gifts - Gifts among employees may be exchanged during the holiday season. However, be mindful of appearances. To avoid creating the perception of partiality or favoritism requires “good judgment.” Gift giving in the workplace should be even-handed and democratic in spirit. No one should be left out. Some specific rules apply:

- The value of a holiday gift to a superior is limited to \$10, and you may not solicit contributions from other employees. There are no restrictions on gifts to peers or subordinates.
- You may not accept a gift from anyone who makes less money than you do as a Federal employee, unless there is no superior-subordinate relationship, and there is a personal relationship that would justify the gift. Again, the exception would be for a gift where the value does not exceed \$10, with no soliciting of contributions from other employees.
- We may have a gift exchange among employees. If it is an anonymous exchange, a reasonable value should be established for the individual gifts. If it is not anonymous, \$10 is the limit. If contractor employees are participating in an anonymous gift exchange, the gift limit should be \$20.

- Federal employees generally may not accept gifts from contractors or contractor employees. However, gifts (other than cash) not exceeding \$20 may be accepted as long as the employee has not accepted other gifts from the contractor that exceed \$50 for the year.

- Have fun this holiday season. Employees can plan and participate in holiday events. Just remember, we must all use common sense and “good judgment.” Source: Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Administrative Law Division.

Use caution, care and common sense for a safe Christmas

By Terry Davis
FSH Supervisor, Fire Inspection

The holiday season is upon us and it is time to get out all the Christmas decorations and light up the house. Of course we all want our house to stand out from all the others. As Tim “The Tool Man” Taylor would say, “More power!!” Well, there are a few precautions to consider when decorating for the holidays. Did you know that residential fires are 14 percent more likely to happen during the holiday season and nearly 30 percent more likely to cause death? This is a needless tragedy. Simple precautions and common sense can prevent a family tragedy during what otherwise should be a happy time of year.

At pennies a day to power them, holiday lights are an economical way to enjoy the holidays. But enjoy the bright lights safely. Use these tips when decorating with lights:

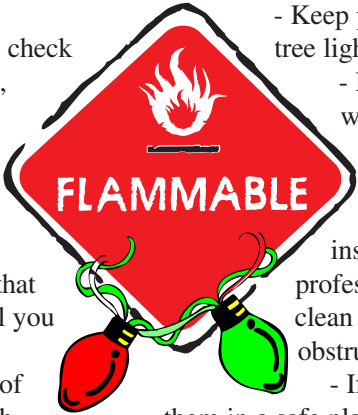
- Use only lights that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters

Laboratory (UL). Look for the UL label on the box and on each string.

- If you use a fresh tree, water it frequently and place it away from heat sources such as heating ducts, a fireplace, radiators or television.
- Before plugging in lights, check each string for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs. Replace any damaged strings.
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition. Use only UL approved cords that are rated to carry the electrical you will connect to them.
- Keep electrical cords out of high traffic areas. Don’t stretch them across a room where people can trip over them; likewise; don’t hide them under rugs or carpets that people will trample on.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.
- While some people may load up an extension cord to free outlet space over

the holidays, remember that extension cords are meant for temporary, not permanent, use.

- Here are some other precautions to take:
 - Keep presents away from the tree lights.
 - Do not burn gift-wrappings in the fireplace, as this can cause a chimney fire. Have your chimney inspected by a professional to make sure it’s clean and free of obstructions.
 - If you use candles, place them in a safe place away from any flammable material. Be sure children know the dangers of candles, chafing dishes, and potpourri scent pots.
 - Do not put lights on metal trees.
 - Use only flame resistant decorations.
 - If your tree is purchased from a lot, test its freshness my pulling along a small branch. If the needles fall away in



- your hand, the tree is already too dry.
- Also, if your tree is purchased from a lot, make a fresh cut at least one (1) inch above the original cut to allow moisture to enter the tree.
- Artificial trees should bear a UL label of approval. Be absolutely certain the tree is made of fire retardant material.
- Now for the fun stuff, the gifts:
 - Check all toys with electrical motors or lights to make sure they are approved by UL or and independent testing laboratory.
 - Make sure the toy gifts that you buy for children are not made of flammable materials.
 - Many toy manufacturers indicate age ranges on toys for young children. Check to make sure the age category is appropriate; no small pieces for tots who may swallow or choke on them.
- Always remember, Caution + Care + Common Sense = A fire safe and happy holiday season.
- If you have any questions call 221-2727.

Include effective risk management in all of your holiday safety plans

Vehicle Safety Tips

- Adjust your driving speed for traffic, road conditions and weather.
 - Get plenty of rest before preparing to drive long distances. Fatigue is a major accident cause.
 - Always use your seat belts. Children under 12 years old require child or booster seats. You are responsible to ensure everyone in your vehicle wears their seat belts.
 - Pay attention! Stay focused on your driving. Don’t be distracted by your cell phone, passengers, CD or cassette.
 - Never, ever drink and drive. Drive defensively, because one in 20 drivers is drunk!
- ### Alcohol Safety Tips
- Don’t drink and drive, boat or swim.
 - Use a designated driver when going out to drink. If no transportation is available call Staff Duty or MP. You will not be penalized for using common

- sense.
- Drink in moderation. Alcohol is poisonous.
 - Do not go to unknown bars and clubs by yourself.
 - Alcoholic beverages will not be consumed, stored, or possessed in company, battalion, or brigade areas, unit billets, barracks, common areas, break areas, parking lots adjacent to the above areas, or in any other area on post by student personnel.
- ### Your responsibilities
- Safety is not only a leader’s responsibility. Soldiers must have the moral courage to step forward and speak up when an unsafe act or condition exists. Safety affects every facet of our daily lives. Set the example both on and off duty. Anyone who observes an unsafe act is responsible for stopping the act and reporting it through the appropriate channels.
- Consistently apply effective risk management concepts and methods to operations and tasks.

- Understand, accept, and implement risk management processes.
 - Maintain a constant awareness of the hazards associated with a task.
 - Identify with your buddy, upcoming plans and/or events and develop safety control measures through risk management.
 - Make supervisors immediately aware of any unrealistic risk reduction measures or high risk procedures or risk issues beyond your control or authority.
 - Utilize (when applicable) Protective equipment, clothing, or safety devices (PPE).
 - Highlight hazards for extra care and handling (repair/report hazards).
- ### Fire Safety
- The Fire Department will be notified by one of the following means: By telephone dial 911.
 - Action after alarm of fire. The following actions will be carried out only when possible and safe for personnel involved:
 - **R** - Rescue (this does not mean you go back in). As you exit, assist anyone who may need assistance evacuating.
 - **A** - Activate (pull) the nearest alarm.
 - **C** - Close the door to the area if applicable
 - **E** - Evacuate or extinguish.
 - **Note:** If you have a fire extinguisher, have been trained in its use, and can readily extinguish a fire, you should attempt to do so.

CALL helps Soldiers adapt to enemy changes quickly

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

Just as enemy forces change their tactics, techniques and practices, so must Soldiers adapt to a shifting environment. The Center for Army Lessons Learned has recently transformed the way it does business in order to help Soldiers adjust to enemy changes quickly.

“We’ve embedded some of our team members in the divisions in Iraq,” said Col. Larry Saul, CALL director. “...if an event occurs right now, today, and a unit experiences a new enemy TTP (tactic, technique or procedure), they conduct an AAR (after-action review) and then they send that information through their chain of command to the division. We have three liaison officers with the divisions in Iraq ...we also have a team in Afghanistan. They get this information and share it with the other division LNOs (liaison officers) who share it with their brigades and battalions.”

Those teams also share the information

with the CALL headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., which in turn passes it to units slated to head in theater, the Combat Training Centers -- the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.; the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.; and the Combat Maneuver Training Center, Hoenfels, Germany -- so they can update mission rehearsals with the latest TTPs, the Training and Doctrine Command to include appropriate lessons learned in training curriculum and doctrine, as well with a host of joint, interagency and multinational organizations.

CALL evaluates ongoing real-world missions, unit rotations through JRTC and NTC, and other major exercises – providing not only changes in TTPs, but also solutions to new enemy TTPs and analysis of ongoing operations and issues.

Technology has also helped in changing how long it takes to get lessons learned into the hands of people that need them, Saul said.

“It (used to take) about a month or

more for the unit to ‘hot wash’ through the information and figure out what was important, and then send it to CALL,” Saul said. “It took CALL a couple of months to analyze the data, then add the printing cycle -- six months easily could pass before the unit in the field got a useful product.”

In addition to having CALL “boots on the ground” in Central Command, posting findings on the Web (<http://call.army.mil>) has helped reduce the time between learning of a new enemy TTP and getting that information out. Access to that information is restricted to Department of Defense personnel via a DoD computer or an Army Knowledge Online account as a force protection measure.

Units getting ready to deploy to Iraq and other interested parties have access to a wealth of linked resources, including dozens of after-action reports from current-ly and recently deployed units, a convoy operations smart card, an IED standoff cheat sheet and a draft of a convoy leader

training handbook.

According to “24 Frequently Asked Questions” posted on the CALL Web site by 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in mid November, units getting ready for deployment to CENTCOM should focus training on operations at the section and crew level. “That is the level at which the majority of our operations were run in Iraq, from presence patrols to convoy escorts.”

CALL is now organized to take requests from the filed via e-mail from its Web site. While some questions may require extensive coordination with other agencies, the goal is have to an answer back to the requestor within 48 hours. For the most part, CALL is hitting that mark, Saul said.

CALL is the Army’s only organization that is a true training aid, Saul said, because it takes what units have experienced, either in training or actual operations, to provide insights, observations and analyses with the goal of increasing warfighting capabilities across the force.

Defense Department targets military pay increases for 2004

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Force Press Service

Military personnel will see their basic pay more in line with that of civilian counterparts in the private sector in 2004 thanks to an increased pay and benefits compensation package included in the 2004 Defense Authorization Act approved by Congress this year.

Air Force Col. Virginia S. Penrod, director of military compensation office for the Defense Department, said the 2004 military pay and benefits plan provides for a 3.7 percent across the board pay increase and further targets pay increases for noncommissioned officers and warrant officers, some as high as 6.25 percent for senior-enlisted service members.

In addition, service members will see 2004 increases in housing allowance pay and special incentive pay.

Penrod said the average basic pay raise, which is equal to a little over 4 percent, helps to close the gap between military pay and civilian pay.

“Everyone receives a 3.7 percent pay raise across the board, this is by law,” she said, adding that the pay raise

is a half percentage point more than the private sector wage earner will earn. “The NCOs, E-5 through E-9 will receive targeted pay raises from 4.6 to 6.25 percent. And we’re also paying a targeted raise to our warrant officer grades.”

Penrod also noted that part of the pay incentive is to help in retention of senior non commissioned officers, pointing out that highest pay raises, 6.25 percent, will go to E-9s with 26 years or more service.

“This (raise) recognizes the contribution of our senior non commissioned officers and our career enlisted force,” Penrod explained. “All NCOs will receive some form of a targeted raise, and the pay increases as the grade increases. So it’s an incentive to continue in the military and to pursue higher rank.”

Also included in the package is an average increase of almost 8 percent for military basic allowance for housing --money given to military personnel to help defray the cost of housing expenses.

Penrod said the almost 8 percent increase for housing allowance continues our effort to reduce out of pocket expenses for military personnel, which the Pentagon is hopeful to do by fiscal year 2005.

“When BAH was enacted, housing allowances amounted to 80 percent of housing costs, this left the service member with 20 percent out-of-pocket cost,” she said. “In fiscal year 2000, the Secretary of Defense committed the department to reduce these out of pocket expenses to zero by 2005. And we’re on track to do this.”

She said that military out of pocket expenses for housing is down to about 3.5 percent for January 2004 and “should be at zero in 2005.”

“If you talk to a service member today compared to their compensation package ten years ago they are very pleased,” Penrod said. “The housing increase has been absolutely the right benefit at the right time. It shows we do value their commitment to the military and what they do for the country.”

Another area of increase pay will be special and incentive pay, such as imminent danger pay and family separation

pay.

Penrod explained those pay increase were made possible in part due to President Bush’s supplemental funding request this year. That request authorized funding for increases in imminent danger pay from \$150 to\$225 per month, as well as increases in the family separation pay and support allowance from \$100 to \$250 per month.

Other new measures in the 2004 compensation package allow for services to offer incentive pay to get officers to extend overseas tours. “Previously this was only offered to enlisted members,” she explained.

Penrod said the compensation policy has two principal thrusts: The first of which is to have an overall level of military compensation that is at least equal to the 70th percentile of the pay of civilians with comparable levels of education. The other is to target special and incentive pays and bonuses to address retention problems that are specific to various occupations and recruitment problems.

In addition, beginning in 2004, the new compensation package will begin phasing in percentage increases each year of amount offset under current law for military retirees with a VA disability of 50 percent or more and eligible to receive both military retirement and Veterans Affairs disability pay. Currently a veteran's retirement pay is reduced by a percentage of the disability pay received from VA.

Penrod said that beginning next year, veterans will receive an increased portion of the “off-set” to their retirement pay. “And by 2014, the member will have the full concurrent receipt,” she said.

Another pay benefit for veterans in 2004 will be in combat related special compensation programs for retirees whose disability is directly related to combat or through training for combat. She said now all retirees will be eligible for these payments, which essentially provide the equivalent of full concurrent receipt. The retiree must have had 20 years of service to qualify.

Penrod said the Defense Department is targeting pay raises for its noncommissioned officers to “recognize the contributions” that noncommissioned officers and career-enlisted force bring to the military.

In summing up the new compensation package, she said that DoD is sending the message that it remains committed to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure that will provide members with a suitable and secure standard of living and that will sustain a trained, experienced, and ready force in the future.

Auditions for ‘Steel Magnolias’ at Harlequin

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will hold open auditions on Jan. 12 and 13, 7-8:30 p.m. for Steel Magnolias, with Bruce E. Shirky directing. There are roles for six women. Other volunteers are needed as light and sound technicians, props and stage crew. Performances will be Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Feb. 25 through March 27. Those who come to auditions should enter Fort Sam Houston through the Walters Street gate. For information, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694.



‘Murder at the Vicarage’ at Harlequin

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre is featuring ‘Murder at the Vicarage’ a mystery by Agatha Christie, Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Jan. 14 through Feb. 14. Prices are \$25.95 on Fridays and Saturdays and \$22.95 on Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are discounts for military and students. The theatre opens for salad bar and cocktails at 6:15 p.m., the buffet is open from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and curtain is at 8 p.m. For reservations, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694. The box office is open from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Theatre is handicapped accessible.

Running safely on post reduces risk of accidents

If walking or running during hours of darkness carry a flashlight to shine on the sidewalk in front of you. One should also be wearing light (or reflective) clothing, stay out of the roadway, and be alert to traffic. Carry your own identification: name, address, a friend or relative’s telephone number. Make sure your friends or relatives know your favorite running routes. Run in familiar areas and avoid unpopulated areas, deserted streets, and overgrown trails. Don’t wear headphones. Run against traffic and keep the approaching automobiles in view. Wear reflective material if you must run during the hours of darkness. Runners may run on sidewalks or on the grass along the roads mentioned below. Prohibited running/jogging roads on Fort Sam Houston: Stanley, Dickman, Artillery Post, Wilson, Scott, New Braunfels, Harry Wurzbach, Schofield, Roger Brooke and Binz-Engleman.

Enter the ‘Designated Driver Sweepstakes’

Visit the NCO Club, Golf Club or Bowling Center and enter to win the “Designated Driver Sweepstakes” from now to Jan. 3. Grand prize is an all-expense paid trip for two to attend a Clear Channel concert of your choice, within the 48 contiguous states, during the 2004 concert season. The trip consists of round-trip first class air transportation for two from gateway city nearest winner’s home; double-occupancy hotel accommodations for two nights; two concert tickets; limousine transportation to/from the concert; two invitations to the Sound Check Party for a special opportunity to see the band before the concert and \$500 cash. First place prize is a Budweiser True Friends MP3 Player.

FSH Golf Club Pro Shop Christmas Sale

Come see the exciting array of Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers available in our fully stocked Pro Shop. The Pro Shop will be open until 7:30 p.m. daily for your holiday shopping convenience. Special orders may be placed for your Christmas needs. We will be having free gift wrapping for any purchase of \$25 or more. Having a hard time choosing just the right gift? Take the guessing out of the shopping and purchase a Gift Certificate. For more information, call 221-4388.

FSH NCO Club presents holiday jazz

Enjoy the sounds of Jazz Artist Michael Ward and Special Guest Kyle Turner on Dec. 13. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and showtime is at 9 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person. The Club will have a free buffet prior to the show for guests from 7-9 p.m. and there will also be a full service bar. Non-military guests are welcome. For more information, call 224-2721.

Visit the new MWR ticket office

The new MWR Ticket Office is located in Bldg. 1395 on Chaffee Road in the Main Entrance of the NCO Club. Hours of operation are Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Office has season passes for Splash Town, Fiesta Texas and tickets for Ripley’s Wax Museum, Imax Theater and San Antonio Tours. For information, call 224-2721.

10K

TOUGH ‘OMBRE

5K

2003

INDIVIDUAL

4-PERSON TEAM

Run

"Run to the sound of the guns"

WALK

PRIZES

WHEN:

Saturday, December 13, 9:00 a.m.

WHERE:

McAllister Park, San Antonio

Pre-register by: December 10, 2003

Entry fees:

•\$20 for 10K, \$15 for 5K

•\$70 for 4-person 10K teams (prizes for teams only, not individuals)

The Tough ‘Ombre 10K is the oldest certified running race in Texas. The course is certified by USA Track and Field. The race starts at Pavilion 2, McAllister Park (13102 Jones-Maltsberger) in San Antonio. The race will be run, rain or shine.

SPONSORS:

active.com

FirstCommand

roadID

H-E-B

RUNNER'S WORLD

For more information or questions, call:

Cheryn at 210-691-1394

Mail form and entry fee to:

90th RSC

Attn: Tough ‘Ombre 10K/5K

1920 Harry Wurzbach Hwy.

San Antonio, TX 78209

Or register online at

www.active.com

Name

Address

Phone

T-shirt Size: S M L XL

Team Name

Sex

Age on race day

Waivers

In consideration of acceptance of this entry, I (for myself, my child) my executor, administrator, and assignee, do hereby agree to assume full responsibility for my own safety and to waive and hold harmless the sponsors, promoters, directors, and all other persons or entities associated with this event. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risk involved in this event and verify that I am physically fit and sufficiently insured to participate in the event. I further understand that my entry fee is non-refundable.

Signature

Date

Signature of parent or guardian if under 18 years of age.

Date

Smoke-free and courageous forever

Attend smoking cessation classes in the Health Promotion Center and learn how to find the courage to give up the nicotine habit forever, whether you smoke, dip, or chew. Become one of our graduates and earn your “wings”.

Health Promotion Center

Ward 3 West, BAMC

916-3352 or 916-5538

Tax statements available on myPay beginning Dec. 13

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service recently released the schedule of dates when U.S. military service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>).

myPay provides an easy, secure method for managing pay account information for America's military service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilians. Available around the clock, customers can conveniently make changes online, avoiding the hassles of an office visit.

Military members and Department of Defense civilian employees will once again have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

During 2003, more than 1.2 million users viewed their tax statements on myPay, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online,” said Pat Shine, director of DFAS’ Military and Civilian Pay Services business line. “Timely access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information.

For assistance, myPay users can call customer support at 1-800-390-2348.

FSH Vet clinic will hold evening ‘Walk-In’ vaccination clinic, today

An evening “Walk-In” Vaccination Clinic will be held at the Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic for cats and dogs (no sick call) today, 4-8 p.m. To receive services patrons must be active duty, retirees, and family members. Reservists on active duty status will need to bring in a copy of their orders. All regular prices will apply. Call the clinic in advance at 295-4260, so they can prepare records for your pet’s arrival.

Be aware of FSH stray animal policy

In accordance with Fort Sam Houston Regulation 40-3, stray animals are not allowed to run loose on post. Animals impounded by the military police are taken directly to San Antonio Animal Control, located at 210 Tuleta Street near Brackenridge Park and the San Antonio Zoo.

To find a lost animal, you may contact San Antonio Animal Control at 207-6660. Animals not claimed within three working days will be disposed of through adoption or euthanasia.



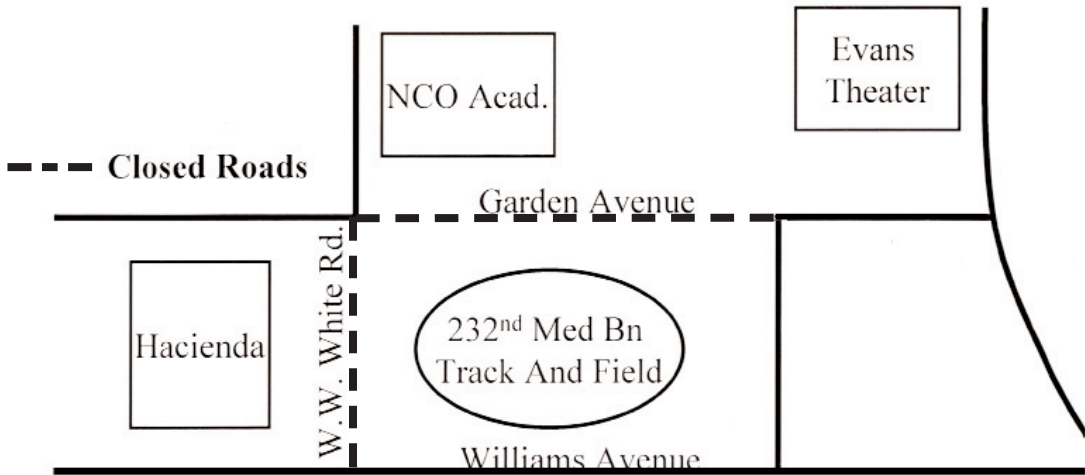
Tax statements will be available on myPay on the following dates:

	No earlier than:	No later than:
Military Annuitants	12/13/2003	12/18/2003
DoD civilians	12/24/2003	12/29/2003
Army, Air Force, Navy Reserve and National Guard	12/26/2003	01/01/2004
Military Retirees	01/01/2004	01/05/2004
Marine Corps Active and Reserve	01/13/2004	01/21/2004
Army, Air Force, Navy Active	01/16/2004	01/26/2004

Brigade Holiday Challenge road closures, Dec. 12

On Dec. 12, 32nd Medical Brigade will be sponsoring the Brigade Holiday Challenge from 5 to 7 a.m. This event will promote honor, pride, esprit de corps, and safety awareness within the 32nd Medical Brigade prior to holiday exodus leave.

During this time the roads depicted below will be closed to all traffic. Additionally, the three battalions will be marching from their respective barracks area to the track beginning at approximately 4:30 a.m. and may cause delays on some of the roads in the brigade area.



Turn-ins by appointments only at DRMO San Antonio

Notice to all generators, DRMO San Antonio effective January 2004, Turn-ins by appointment only. To schedule appointments, call 221-3657, 3651 or 3662. For information, call Barbara Roberts at 221-3738 or Mary Rocha at 221-3657.

Unlimited Commissary privileges for Guard and Reserve

Just in time for the holidays, Guard and Reserve members now have unlimited commissary shopping privileges thanks to provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act, which eliminated the 24-day shopping restrictions. Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when shopping at the Fort Sam Houston Commissary.

FSH Commissary extends holiday hours

Now through Dec. 31 the Fort Sam Houston Commissary will close at 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7 p.m. on Sunday.

In Transition?

Accepting Applications at Fort Sam Houston
Bldg 2263 - Stanley Rd.
Room B100 (Basement)
Tuesday, January 13, 2004
8-00 am - 4 pm

Earn up to \$31,000/ann during Training

VA Certified | Full Time Veteran's Education Benefits


Enhance your Salary with Degree

Promotional Opportunities after 2 years






Also Accepting Applications At:
215 South San Saba
Monday thru Friday (8am - 7pm)
January 5, 2004 thru February 6, 2004
www.sanantonio.gov/sapd

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"



WANT TO BECOME A WARRANT OFFICER?







I WANT YOU FOR U.S. ARMY
Warrant Officer Accession Program

The United States Army is looking for highly motivated soldiers to fill its Warrant Officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties if you qualify. Soldiers with less than 12 years active federal service (AFS) are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the Warrant Officer Recruiting Team at

www.usarec.army.mil/warrant

(502) 626-0484/0458/0488/0478/1860.



Why wear seatbelts?

- Newer seatbelt design allows total freedom of motion while driving.
 - People who are thrown from cars are 25 times more likely to be killed than if they had been held securely in their seats.
 - The majority of all car accidents occur within 25 miles of home.
 - 80 percent of all serious injuries and fatalities occur in cars going 40 miles per hour or slower.
 - You may be a good driver, but there are situations beyond your control such as weather and road conditions that can affect your safety.
 - Seatbelts are 57 percent effective in preventing traumatic and fatal brain injuries.
 - According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, over the last 10 years, safety belts have prevented some 55,600 deaths, 1,300,000 injuries and saved more than \$105 billion in costs.
- Source: Fort Sam Houston Safety Office



TSP Open Season, now through Dec. 15

Thrift Savings Plan contribution percentages or dollar amount changes can be done via Internet at www.abc.army.mil or via telephone at 1-877-276-9287. Allocations of your investment can be changed via computer at www.tsp.gov. Thrift Savings Plan is one of the best benefits we have as government employees with matching government contributions to the Federal Employee Retirement System.

Thrift Savings Plan is a vital part of your three-part retirement program (Thrift Savings

Plan, Social Security, and Pension). The Office of Personnel Management has advised employees under FERS who do not actively participate in Thrift Savings Plan contributions can expect a retirement annuity at or below poverty level. Congress is concerned that one quarter of employees under the FERS system are not contributing to the Thrift Savings Plan. The contribution limits will rise by another percentage point to 14 percent for FERS and 9 percent for CSRS employees this season.

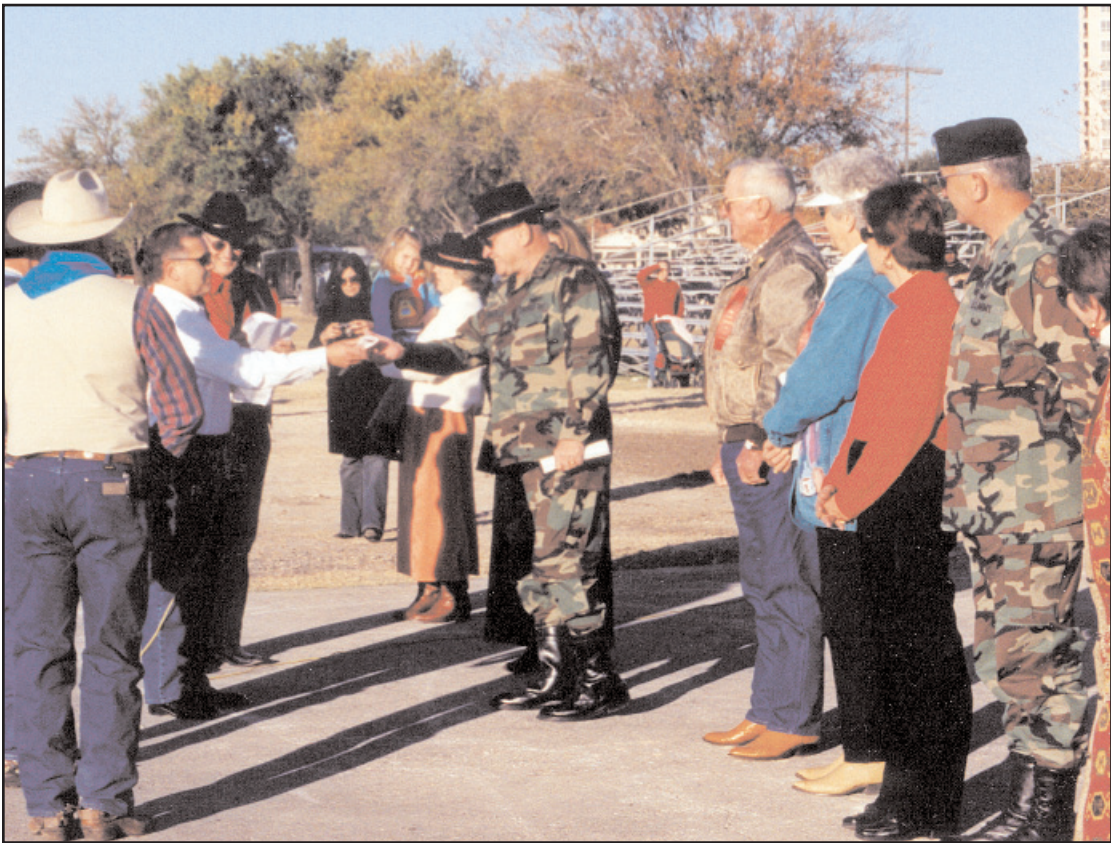
Vehicle registration mandatory on post

As a reminder, in accordance with Army Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision and U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston Regulation 190-5 Motor Vehicle Traffic Programs, all Privately Owned Vehicles, (POV) to include motorcycles and mopeds, that are owned or operated by active duty, retired military, family members, or civilians employed on Fort Sam Houston or its sub-installations must be registered and display the Department of Defense registration decal.

In order to register a vehicle on Fort Sam Houston, the owner/operator must possess and present a valid drivers license, current state vehicle registration, proof of continuing

compliance with state car insurance laws, and proof of compliance with state safety and mechanical vehicle inspections.

Vehicle registration sites are located in Bldg. 367 and at the Walters Street visitor access point. Persons, such as contractors, having a valid reason for entering the installation frequently will register their vehicles at the Provost Marshall Office in Bldg. 367. The contracting officer's representative is responsible for validating access requirements and requesting temporary badges and decals as necessary for contractor personnel for the term of the contract. These measures are necessary in order to make Fort Sam Houston and its sub-installations safer and more secure places to live and work.



Photos by Esther Garcia
Disney Radio personnel Diana Miller and Eric Staumer entertain children at the Disney Radio Channel booth.

Postmaster Robert Larios hands the governor's holiday message to Lt. Gen. Wayne Marty, Adjutant General, Texas National Guard, who in turn read the message.



Photo by Esther Garcia
Members of the 49th Armored Division Band, Texas National Guard, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer James Manzo, played "cavalry traveling music" at the arrival of the pony express riders during the Pony Express Christmas Courier Run Grand Finale. The band also performed a medley of holiday music.

Fort Sam Houston ISD Weekly Campus Activities Dec. 15-20

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Monday, Dec. 15

- Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday, Dec. 16

- PTO Meeting in FSH Elementary Cafeteria, 6 p.m.
- PTO Christmas Program in FSH Elementary Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18

- FSHISD School Board Meeting in Professional Development Center, 11 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 20

- Spirit Day

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

Monday, Dec. 15

- Six Weeks Tests: English and Electives

Tuesday, Dec. 16

- Six Weeks Tests: Science
- Girls Basketball vs Stockdale at Cole, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

- Semester Exams: Periods 1, 5, and 7

Thursday, Dec. 18

- Semester Exams: Periods 2 and 4
- FSH ISD School Board Meeting in Professional Development Center, 11 a.m.
- Boys Soccer at Holy Cross, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 20

- End of Third Six Weeks and First Semester
- Semester Exams: Periods 3 and 6
- Girls Varsity Basketball vs Navarro at Cole, 6:30 p.m.
- Girls Junior Varsity Basketball vs Navarro at Central Post Gym, 5 p.m.
- Boys Basketball vs Navarro at Cole, 5 and 8 p.m.



Photo by Capt. Mark Williford

Lynn Atkins, a volunteer, goes out on a limb to put the final touches on the Fisher House Christmas tree recently.

6th Annual IMPACT Christmas Party, Dec. 20

A holiday event for families with special needs children will be held Saturday, Dec. 20, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fort Sam Houston Youth Services, Winans Road Gate and Watkins Terrace.

Join us for a hayride and caroling through Watkins Terrace Housing, Mr. Dave’s Incredible Holiday Magic Show, Santa’s Dance Party, and the annual IMPACT family potluck dinner. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share.

For reservations, e-mail RPhiLeslie@aol.com or call 497-6310. Event is sponsored by Youth Service, School Age Services, IMPACT, and IMPACT Partners.



Blood is the fluid of life

The BAMC Blood Bank is running critically low of O Negative blood.

Akeroyd Blood Donor Center is reaching out to you for your support to accomplish a mission for life.

To donate blood now, call the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at 295-4655 or 295-4989.



AFTB celebrates nine years

An Army Family Team Building 9th birthday celebration will be held Dec. 15, 4:30-6 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg 2797. Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of the AFTB program and thank our AFTB volunteers. The event is in partnership with the Young Artists Reception.

On December 16, 1994, Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan and Sergeant Major of the Army, Richard A. Kidd, signed the letter establishing AFTB as an official Army program. On December 1998, Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Dennis J. Reimer and Sergeant Major of the Army Robert E. Hall signed the proclamation establishing Dec. 16 as Army Family Team Building Day. (See the Proclamation at right.)

AFTB is an informational program for family members. The program curriculum was developed using the Army’s Leader development model and topics for classes were identified using lessons learned from Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Class content provides students with an understanding of Army culture and resources that enhance the skills they already have, developing self-reliant, self-sufficient members of the military community.

The heart of the AFTB program is the AFTB volunteer corps. During 2003, more than 1,200 volunteers provided approximately 33,000 hours of training to 20,000 students Army wide.

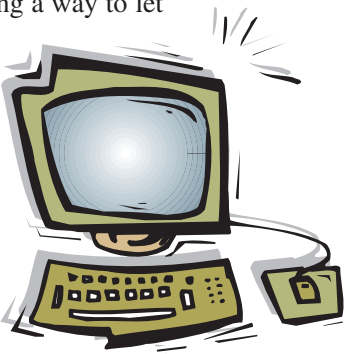
Send deployed troops message on SoldierRadio.com

SoldierRadio is again this year providing a way to let you tell Service members worldwide that you care and are thinking about them during the holidays.

You can do an Audio Post Card simply by calling 1-800-330-5090. Your recorded personalized message will be played back on www.SoldiersRadio.com.

You can record a short message (30 seconds) to friends, family members or just a random message of good will. SoldiersRadio will then take your message and put it on the radio Web cast throughout the holiday season. It’s very simple to do and works both ways ... from the field or to the service member.

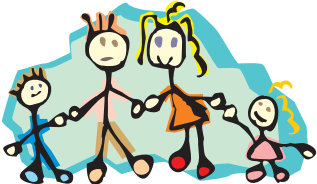
AnyServiceMember.org is also promoting the call-in holiday service in hopes of reaching a large group of people who would like to send a message to Soldiers serving away from home. The cut-off date for the call in is Dec. 15.



Military Family Art Contest

Show off your military family in a colorful drawing!

- Artwork can be dropped off and will be displayed in the Roadrunner Community Center.
- Artwork submitted by Dec. 12, will be judged in a Fort Sam Houston Military Family Art Contest.
- Dec. 15 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes will be awarded in each grade category (K-6) during a Young Artist’s Reception, hosted by AFTB in recognition of Army Family Team Building Day. The reception will be held in the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797, from 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- All entries will then be forwarded to the 9th annual Armed Services YMCA art contest in support of Military Family Month 2004.
- For contest entry forms and guidelines, stop by ACS in the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg 2797.



Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program December Class Schedule

Class	Dates	Time
Basics of Breastfeeding	17	10:30 a.m. to Noon
Boys Only! Ages 9-10	17	3-4 p.m.
Building Effective Anger Management Skills (B.E.A.M.S.) (Series 4-6)	11, 18	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Conflict Management	12	Noon to 1 p.m.
Family Advocacy	18	8-9:30 a.m.
Commander’s Training		
Helping Us Grow Securely (H.U.G.S.) Playgroup	16	9-11 a.m.
Pregnancy and Childbirth	11	9 a.m. to Noon
Stress Management I and II	16	12:30-2 p.m.
Teen Talk	11, 18	4-5 p.m.

Note: To sign up for classes or for more information, please call ACS Family Advocacy Program at 221-0349 or 221-2418.



Army Family Team Building Day Proclamation

We are designating December 16 as “Army Family Team Building Day” to draw attention to the program’s successful mission of improving family readiness throughout America’s Army. Since 1994, Army Family Team Building has significantly contributed to the independence and self-reliance of our Army families. There is direct correlation between Army Family Team Building and its positive impact on Soldier and family readiness. As the program moves into its fifth year, we encourage command teams, Soldiers and family members to celebrate Army Family Team Building’s success.

While this milestone is an occasion for celebration, it is also a time for thoughtful reflection - to look back at the program’s monumental accomplishments achieved in such a short period of time ... and to look ahead to its promising future.

Army Family Team Building is an established and integral part of America’s Army and has embraced the needs of our Total Army Family. As operations tempo has increased, the daily challenges Army families encounter have become even more complex.

Army Family Team Building renews our hope in families helping families, volunteers empowering volunteers, focusing on the needs of all. Army Family Team Building is a success because of the women and men who enthusiastically devote their time, their expertise, and share their experiences. From helping to understand the intricacies of a new military culture to being a key element in preparing for family readiness, the volunteers of Army Family Team Building are there to provide what is needed to strengthen America’s Army. The absolute unparalleled dedication of Army Family Team Building volunteers has not gone unnoticed. They continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to duty, an ability to meet the high standards of the program, and a strong sense of family.

We believe this program will continue to flourish as long as we have an Army. It will keep getting better and better. We recognize the important contributions of the Army Family Team Building program. Because of this, we take this opportunity to proclaim this day, December 16, as Army Family Team Building Day for all of America’s Army. We strongly encourage everyone - command teams, Soldiers, civilians, family members, retirees and loved ones of America's Army - to embrace and support Army Family Team Building.

Please take time, each December, to recognize the special contributions of Army Family Team Building and to thank your Army Family Team Building volunteers and staff for their hard work, dedication and selfless service.

Signed this 16th day of December 1998

Robert E. Hall
Sergeant Major of the Army

Dennis J. Reimer
General, United States Army Chief of Staff

“Empowering our Army Families for the 21st Century”

Post worship schedule

Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 2200, phone numbers: (210) 221-2754.

Catholic Services:

4:45-5:15 p.m. - Confessions - Saturdays
5:30 p.m. - Mass - Saturdays
9:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays
11:30 a.m. - Mass - Weekdays

Protestant Services - Sundays:

8 a.m. - Traditional Protestant
11 a.m. - Traditional Protestant

Jewish Services: phone numbers: (210) 379-8666 or 493-6660.

Fridays: 8 p.m. - Worship and 8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat



Dodd Field Chapel, Bldg. 1721, phone numbers: (210) 221-5010 or 221-5432.

Catholic Services - Sundays:

12:30 p.m. - Bilingual Mass

Protestant Services:

8 a.m. - Contemporary Protestant - Sundays
10:30 a.m. - Collective Gospel Protestant - Sundays
9:30-11:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study (PWOC) -
Wednesdays, childcare is provided

AMEDD Regimental Chapel & Evan's Auditorium, Bldg. 1398, phone numbers: (210) 221-3390 or 221-4210.

Catholic Services: Sundays:

9:15 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers

Protestant Gospel Services: Sundays:

11:30 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers

Evan's Auditorium:

9:15 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers
Protestant Service
11:30 a.m. - Troop Gospel Service



FSH Mosque, Bldg. 607A, phone numbers: (210) 221-5005 or 221-5007.

1:30 p.m. - Jumma - Fridays
10:30 a.m. - Children's Religious Education - Sundays
7:30 p.m. - Adult Religious Education - Thursdays

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel, Bldg. 3600, phone number: (210) 916-1105.

Catholic Services:

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays
11:15 a.m. - Mass - Sundays
11 a.m. - Mass - Weekdays

Protestant Services:

10 a.m. - Worship Service - Sundays
Noon - Worship - Wednesdays



232nd Medical Battalion Classroom, Bldg. 1380, phone numbers: (210) 221-5005 or 221-5007. **Mormon Services:** 10:30 a.m. - Sundays

Web site: www.cs.amedd.army.mil/chaplain

Women's Bible Study Winter Kick-Off event

Is your life a grind? Get a fresh brew! The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite you to bring your favorite cup and come to a Potluck Brunch and Kick-Off Jan. 7, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Dodd Field Chapel. The theme is "Fill My Cup with Living Water, Lord."

The Bible Studies offered include:

Making Your Home A Haven: Strategies for the Domestically Challenged by Cyndy Salzmman - This study is full of humor. Learn from personal accounts, Biblical Principles, and practical advice. Learn to focus on the real home manager (God) and how to move your home from chaos to contentment.

Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs - Learn about the women in the Bible and what we can learn from them. Personalities include Potiphar's wife, Delilah, Rahab the prostitute, and several others.

Heaven: Your Real Home by Joni Eareckson Tada - Learn more about the most overlooked doctrine in the Christian faith. Joni tells what heaven will be like by painting a portrait of heaven in our minds.

Prayer of Jesus by Ken Hemphill - The Lord's Prayer was intended for everyday living and not just on Sundays. You will receive lots of insight and encouragement as you learn to be on the cutting-edge of Kingdom living.

Women of the Bible by Kathy Collard Miller - The Bible Made Easy! Learn about several women in the Bible. Barbara Johnson, Jill Briscoe, Patsy Clairmont, and several others have contributed to the study.

For more information, call Robb at 221-5428.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Day 2004

The Fort Sam Houston Human Relations/ Equal Employment Opportunity Office in conjunction with the Equal Opportunity Advisors and the Special Emphasis Programs will host and support two major events in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Day 2004. The theme for the celebration is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!

On January 15, 2004, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fort Sam Houston will host a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Ceremony at the Road

Runner Community Center. The keynote speaker will be Chaplin (Col.) Edward Maney, chief of chaplains, FSH. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the ceremony.

On January 19, 2004, the FSH Community is invited to participate and support the City of San Antonio's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual City Parade.

For information, call Steven Matkowsky, Black Employment Program Manager at 221-9174 or Phyllis Bergen at 221-5869.

Officer Christian Fellowship Bible study group

Are you interested in a Bible study? Join the Officer Christian Fellowship study group at the home of Lt. Col. Bob Griffith, 1008 Gorgas Circle, on Fridays. Come for supper at 6 p.m. or join us at 7 p.m. for a study of the Gospel of Luke.

For information, call Lt. Col. Griffith at 226-1295 or e-mail thegrifgang@cs.com or Chaplain Schlichter at 221-1968 or e-mail david.schlichter@cen.amedd.army.mil.

Photos by
Esther Garcia

More than 100 pony express riders and their spirited steeds made their final run at Fort Sam Houston MacArthur Parade grounds delivering the Texas Governor's Holiday Message to San Antonio, completing their 150-mile run from Goliad and Gruene. Sponsored by the Alamo Area Council of Governments, the 15th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor, Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair was held Dec. 6.



The 15th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor, Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair ended with a spectacular demonstration of the pony express mail transfer.



Col. Garry Atkins, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to host this year's 15th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor, Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair to Al Notzon, executive director for the Alamo Area Council of Governments and sponsors for the event.



A temporary U.S. Postal station issued pony express stamp cancellations to customers upon request. Like the Pony Express, the U.S. Postal service continues the tradition of delivering mail helping to connect communities and people.

Artists from the Coppini Academy of Fine Arts paint a portrait of a member of the Fort Sam Houston Military Caisson and his horse.





Patrick Mckenzie, Fort Sam Houston Boys Scouts, Pack 23, Den 2, leads the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance during the 15th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor, Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair.



Members of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers, an organization that preserves the legacy of the frontier heroes after the Civil War, displayed authentic Buffalo Soldier artifacts, such as saddles and uniforms.

FSH welcomes the Pony Express riders



Marilyn Magaro, Texas Department of Agriculture "Go Texan" program, provided information about Texas products to Jalinda Borum.



The 15th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor, Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair featured special displays and sales by family and history oriented non-profit organizations including UTSA Anthropology Club & Center for Archaeological Research, the San Antonio Botanical Garden, and Connections Living History Association.



Elias May, 21 months old, who likes horses, does not need help from his grandfather, Robert May, as he gets ready to take off on a pony ride offered by the Fort Sam Houston Stables during The 15th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor, Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair.



Spec. Carmen Posey, 440th Blood Support Detachment, is not about to pass up a good bargain offered by Terri Bills during the FSH garage sale held in conjunction with the 15th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor, Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair.

Youth Happenings

Exploring Life for Middle School Students - Youth Services offers an After School program for Middle School youth grades 6-9. This program is held Monday-Friday after school until 6 p.m. YS will pick up the child from the school (Elementary or the Jr./Sr. High School) and transport him to the Youth Center. At the center, the child will have a snack, work on homework, and participate in clubs activities and other fun innovative projects. One of the best features of this program is that this is a free program. Youth must be registered with Child and Youth Services at a \$15 annual fee, but there is no cost for the after school program for Middle School and high school students. For information, call 221-3502.

YS Volunteers sought - YS is always looking for volunteers to assist with youth programs. We need coaches, computer skilled people, crafty people and those that just care about kids. If you have a special interest or hobby that you would like to share with kids, you can share it at the Youth Center. For information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502 and ask for Jeanne.

Bicycle safety

All personnel on Fort Sam Houston, including children, must wear a bicycle helmet while riding a bicycle, as outlined in Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4, dated July 1999.

AMEDDC&S and Fort Sam Houston Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Programs, also states the bicyclist:

- must obey all traffic signals, signs, and other devices.
- will not carry any other person on a bicycle.
- when riding at night, bicyclists will be equipped with bicycle headlights and taillight.



Child and Youth Services offer program opportunities for military families

Certified FCC providers available - Family Child Care offers home-based childcare for ages 4 weeks to 12 years on and off post with certified providers. Types of care are full day, part day, before and after school care, hourly care, extended hours care and long term care. Referral information and child registration are available at Child and Youth Services Central Registration, 221-4871. FCC is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers to offer home based childcare. There is a no-cost start up plan. For more information, call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

CDC has full day openings - Child Development Center has immediate full day opening for children ages 3-5. To register, patrons will need to present immunization records including Hepatitis A and a copy of a Leave and Earnings Statement. Fees range from \$181 - \$522 per month and are assessed by calculating total family income. For more information or to register, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

3-Day Part Day Preschool enrollments - The 3-Day Part Day Preschool has been placed on hold due to lack of enrollment numbers. If you are interested and have questions concerning the 3-Day Part Day Preschool Program, notify Central Registration to place your name on a list. Fees will range from \$151 - \$200 per month and will be assessed by calculating total family income.

Wait List for full day care - If your child's name is on the Wait List for full day care, check the status of the list every 90 days from the day you complete the form; otherwise your child's name will be purged from the list. To check your status, call Central Registration 221-4871 or 221-1723.

After school and weekend open recreation available at SAS - School Age Services (Kindergarten - 5th grade) offers after school and weekend open recreation opportunities and after school hourly care options. Hourly care and open recreation must be reserved in advance by calling School Age Services at 221-4466. Children must be registered through Central Registration prior to utilizing the School Age program. To register, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Instructional classes available - If you are interested in instructional classes such as Tae Kwon Do, piano or gymnastics, call 221-4882 or 221-4871.

Holiday childcare services - The Fort Sam Houston Child Development Center will be open 6 p.m. to midnight for evening holiday functions. Reservations and pre-payment are required. For more information, call the Child Development Center at 221-5002 or 221-4058.

CYS registration to increases from \$15 to \$18 - Effective Dec. 31, Child and Youth Services registration fee will increase from \$15 per child to \$18 per child or maximum registration fee of \$40 (from \$35) per family for 3 or more children. This is a requirement from Department of Defense and must be implemented consistently within and across installation management agency.



The historic Mason Mansion is a 5,000 sq. ft. High Italianate Victorian-styled home built in 1884 by Col. C.C. Gibbs who served as land commissioner for the Southern Pacific Railroad. His home was said to be the tallest building in San Antonio at the time of its construction. Neighborhood residents Richard and Kathy Garza are restoring the property.

Government Hill attracts public to annual Christmas historic homes tour

Story and photos by Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

The Government Hill Neighborhood Association presented another tour of buildings and homes in the historic district on Sunday. The history of the neighborhood is closely tied to the establishment of Fort Sam Houston in 1876.

Residential development around the post began with the construction of living quarters for Army personnel. Established in 1883, St. Paul's Episcopal Church served as a chapel for soldiers. Edwin Terrell, former U.S. ambassador to Belgium, built Terrell Castle in 1894 and Brig. Gen. John L. Bullis built the Bullis House in 1900.

The original Incarnate Word Academy for Young Women and the original Texas Military Academy were both located in the Government Hill neighborhood. Also located in the area were the many saloons, a barbershop, tailor shop and entertainment establishments like Muth's Gardens attracting soldiers to the neighborhood.

Although many of the landmarks are gone, the neighborhood historic district is closely tied to the post's history and adjacent historic landmark district. New local businesses use the old

homes and office buildings such as the Bullis House and the Terrell Mansion which are operated as bed and breakfast businesses. Other local business owners such as Heidi Mummau, is the founder and owner of Best of Texas Special Events. She now runs an office in both San Antonio and Austin, with the office by Fort Sam Houston, as the main office. She bought an old "San Antonio Ice House" seven years ago at 401 Stafford Street between Walters Street and New Braunfels Avenue, in Government Hill. It is unique with the old wood floors and high ceilings. The building now houses the marketing and operations departments. Heidi employs part-time students, military, seniors, and works with student interns each semester. Very involved in the Government Hill community, Mummau is helping to improve the area and she appreciates the opportunity to operate close to downtown and by the post historic landmark district. She is president of the DMC (Destination Management Company) Roundtable organization in San Antonio and very involved with San Antonio Convention and Visitor's Bureau activities as a hospitality partner. Her company is an Approved Charter Operator for all VIA Buses and Trolley's.



Brig. Gen. John Lapham Bullis built the Bullis House in 1900. He retired in 1903, married and raised his family in the house. Texas settlers called him the "friend of the frontier" for his role keeping the peace along the border and the Texas frontier.



Albert Steves and Sons built the Kates House in 1923. The home is modeled after a Sears and Roebuck plan on land originally part of the T.W. Pierce estate for whom a street is named in the historic district.



Texas State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon met Government Hill Alliance Neighborhood Association members and president Florence Alcoser before touring historic homes.



Local area businesswoman, Heidi Mummau, buys ticket and gets tour program from Florence Alcoser and Kathy Garza for the annual neighborhood Christmas on the Hill tour of historic homes Sunday.



Lloyd Hawkins gets help from Government Hill newsletter editor, Carol Von Oberlender, showing visitors the improvements to his Victorian mansion under renovation during the neighborhood association historic homes tour.

Chapped lips are simply a matter of humidity

By Michael E. Dukes
The Stripe,
Walter Reed Army Medical Center, D.C.

Most people get chapped lips from time to time. They usually apply lip balm to their peeling and cracked lips and then forget about it. But sometimes this does little to remedy the already-active condition. Experts agree that using balms before the damage is done is most effective.

According to experts, using petrolatum

or lip balm is the best treatment for dry and peeling lips, particularly before it occurs.

In the winter there are more chapped lips because it is so dry out. In winter, low humidity outdoors as well as indoors aggravates the lips of people who have a predisposition for chapped lips.

Chapped lips is the drying and flaking of dehydrated lips and is common in people with other skin conditions like eczema. Certain medications, like those used to treat acne and allergies to cosmet-

ics and skin-care products, can also contribute to dry and irritated lips.

The Army has conducted several studies to assess the scope of the lip ailments affecting Soldiers. One study performed in the early 1980s, “The Prevalence Of Environmental Induced Lip Pathology Among Active-Duty Soldiers,” found that chronic lip damage was as common in Soldiers working mostly indoors as those working primarily outdoors.

The study also found that people with the lightest complexions are most likely to

experience chronic lip damage resulting from exposure to environmental factors.

Another study conducted in 1985, “The Prevalence Of Lip Injury During U.S. Army Cold-Weather Exercises,” and another performed in 1997, “The Prevalence Of Chapped Lips During An Army Hot-Weather Exercise,” attributed chapped lips more to dehydration and moisture content than any other factor.

The 1997 study states: “Commercially available lip protectants may offer increased protection from dehydration but

only if they are applied before chapped lips occur.” It is important to look for lip balms that say SPF 15 sunblock on them to block the harmful ultraviolet rays when soldiers are outside in the sun – particularly in the summer.

Soldiers are normally issued some type of lip balm when they deploy, and experts recommend they begin to use it before they start to experience chapped lips.

Chapped lips are not something to be overly alarmed about, though. It’s simply a matter of humidity. The big thing, experts say, is to drink a lot of water so that the lips are being moisturized from the inside, use lip balms, and stop licking the lips. Licking one’s lips tends to cause more irritation. Saliva actually dries the lip more.

It is most important to stay hydrated. Don’t drink too many caffeinated beverages. They cause the drinker to lose water. Instead drink a lot of water.

On rare occasions, infections can occur as a result of chapped lips. Carcinomas on the lip are another problem seen in some patients over 40. These patients typically have red and white blotchy lips. Sometimes this can be hard to detect because chapped lips conceal abnormalities.



Frank Chappell takes a break along the New Year’s Eve Midnight Walk trail at Market Square, with the town’s beautiful Christmas light display visible behind him.

The Texas Volkssport Association hosts Memorial and Midnight Walks

Story and photo by Martin L. Callahan
Special to the News Leader

The first volksmarch in the United States took place during the celebration of the American Bicentennial in 1976 in Fredericksburg, Texas. Fredericksburg is also the birthplace of the first year-round event. The town is well known for its Memorial Walk that takes place during the afternoon on New Year’s Eve and the Midnight Walk that starts at exactly midnight as church bells ring in the New Year. Both walks are 10-kilometers (6.2 miles).

Fredericksburg is about 70 miles west of Austin, Texas. In August 1845, John O. Meusebach selected the site of the town to be settled by the German immigrants from the Adelsverein (Immigrant Society). On May 8, 1846, the first group of 120 German immigrants arrived to begin building a settlement. Baron Meusebach named the new town “Frederichsburg” in honor of Prince Frederick of Prussia, who was an important member of the Adelsverein.

The daytime Memorial Walk is dedicated to the memory of those Texas Volkssporters whom we have lost during the past year. Walkers will follow a trail through the city and countryside. You will have the opportunity to visit the numerous charming businesses, antique shops and restaurants along the town portion of the walk.

At 11 p.m. you will be treated to an evening wine and cheese social courtesy of the Texas Volkssport Association. When the clock strikes twelve all walkers will move in a guided night walk and celebrate the beginning of a new year. Walkers will follow a route through town and neighborhoods and end with a stroll down the historic Main Street for one

last view of the beautiful Christmas lights for the season.

The start point is at St. Joseph’s Hall on the 200 Block of West San Antonio Street. The start time for the afternoon walk is between noon and 2 p.m., finish by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31. The evening wine and cheese social begins at 11 p.m. on the Dec. 31 and ends when the Midnight Walk begins. The start time for the Midnight Walk is between midnight and 12:30 a.m., finish by 3:30 a.m. Bring a flashlight on the midnight walk.

Souvenir walk awards from all over the country will be available for purchase. For information on Fredericksburg, call the Chamber of Commerce at (888) 997-3600 or check Web site at: www.fredericksburg-texas.com. For more information on the walk, contact Charles Wortz by e-mail at cwortz@texas.net or at (512) 479-0741. Directions/information on this walk can be downloaded from the Texas Volkssport Association site at www.walktexas.org.

What is HOOAH 4 HEALTH?

HOOAH 4 HEALTH (H4H) is a web-based health promotion and prevention program developed to respond to the needs of the U.S. Army Reserve Components. The site was launched in May 2000 and since then over 46 million hits have been recorded.

The users of www.hooah4health.com include not only Reserve Component citizen-soldiers and active Army personnel, but also their co-workers and families. Also, many users are elementary school children, and requests to link to this innovative U.S. Army web site originate from around the world. Body, mind, spirit, environment, prevention, change, family and lifestyle are the primary wellness topics contained in a user-friendly environment. The HOOAH 4 HEALTH newsletter is available online at <http://www.h4hnewsletter.us/>.



Courtesy photos

Patrons get a workout on one of the many aerobic bikes available at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The facility offers a variety of aerobics equipment including free runners, treadmills, stair steppers and aerobics bicycles.

A swimmer enjoys the indoor pool located at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The facility offers swim lessons, water aerobics and open swim.



Recreation and Fitness

MWR Web site - Find all the latest news on Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, facilities and activities at www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com.

Red Cross approved Life Guard Class - Sign up now for this comprehensive six day class at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Pool. The course will be held Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 22-24 and Dec. 29-31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Cost is \$165 and includes a book. For information or to register, call 221-1234.

Holiday Youth Horsemanship Camp - Reserve your spot for the winter youth horsemanship camp at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center. The camp will be held Dec. 29 through Jan. 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$150. For information or to register, call 221-5554.

Varsity Men's and Women's Softball Tryouts - Softball tryouts will be held Jan. 26-29, 6:30 p.m. Men's will be held at Leadership Field and women's at the Hacienda Field. For information, call Earl Young at 221-1180 or e-mail at earl.young@samhouston.army.mil

Note: Varsity softball coaches are needed. Submit a resume by Jan. 5 to Earl Young, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, or call 221-1180, e-mail earl.young@samhouston.army.mil.

Intramural Leagues:
For information on the following leagues, call 221-1180.

Bowling - Coaches meeting will be held Dec. 12, 1 p.m., at the Bowling Center. Season starts Jan. 5.

Ping Pong - Letters of intent are due Jan. 2, coaches meeting will be held Jan. 9, 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Season starts Jan. 16.

Billiards - Letters of intent are due Jan. 2, coaches meeting will be held Jan. 9, 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Season starts Jan. 16.

Fitness Programs:
For information on the following programs, call Lucian Kimble at 221-2020.

Conditioning Programs - The following motivational physical conditioning programs encourage participation through a reward system based on progress. Programs have established goals for participants to reach to receive a T-shirt:

- Bench Press Program -**

Men	Women
250 lbs	115 lbs
315 lbs	135 lbs
350 lbs	
400 lbs	
- Bicycle Programs** - 500 miles
- Stair Master and Cross Trainer Program** - 30 hours
- Walk for Lunch Bunch** - 50 miles
- Massage Treatments** - The fitness center offers a variety massage treatments ranging from a 3-minute massage for only \$35 to a full three hours for \$175. A certified massage therapist performs massages.
- Weight Loss Classes** - Weight loss classes

are held every Tuesday from 10-10:30 a.m. and 5-5:30 p.m.

Karate Classes - The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center offers Karate classes every Tuesday from 6:45-8:15 p.m. and every Friday from 6-7:30 p.m. Initiation fee is \$80 and includes uniform and belt; \$45 per month and \$35 per family member. For information, call Al Francis at 264-1391 or Lucian Kimble at 221-2020.

On-going Fitness Programs - Biking, Walking for Lunch Bunch, Stairmaster, Bench Press Programs are just a few of the fitness programs available at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

Run/Walk for Your Life Program - Get in shape and stay in shape with this self-paced, progressive distance running program. Conducted in three phases, the Run/Walk for Your Life Program is designed to improve the physical fitness and general health of all participants.

60 Days of Fitness - A motivating fitness and weight loss program to help you safely lose 15 pounds in 60 days using a point system. This self-paced program requires you to workout 45 out of 60 days and includes a seven-page fitness assessment, body fat analysis and body measurements. You will also attend two 30-minute weight loss classes. Cost for the program is \$20, which includes a t-shirt.

Swim Across Texas Program - This program is designed as a motivator to start and continue a fitness swimming routine. This program will track the distance you swim and give you credit for each 1,000 meters completed at either of the Fort Sam Houston pools. Swimmers may use training aids such as snorkels, pull buoys, fins, and paddles and kick boards to complete the workout. Swimmers will be awarded prizes as they progress.

Note: The Sports and Fitness Branch encourages customer comment, if you have any questions, call the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at 221-1234.

Health Promotion Center December Class Schedule

Class	Date	Time
Self Care & Health	11	9-11 a.m.
Breast Health	12	9-10 a.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	12	1-2:30 p.m.
Cholesterol & Lipids	15	8:30-11:30 a.m.
Diabetes Education	15	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Arthritis	16	9:30-11 a.m.
Continuing Care	16	9-10 a.m.
Diabetes Education	16	12:45-4:30 p.m.
High Blood Pressure	17	9 a.m. to Noon
Office Yoga	17	Noon to 1 p.m.
Back Pain	18	2-3:30 p.m.

Note: Schedule Diabetes Education through Internal Medicine Clinic at 916-0794. Fibromyalgia Program series requires a consult to Behavioral Medicine Clinic. Schedule Winning Combinations (weight management) through Nutrition Care Division at 916-5525. Schedule Back Pain through Physical Therapy Clinic at 916-3247/4133.

Holiday fitness program hours

Dec. 22
9-10 a.m. Water Fitness
4:45-5:15 p.m. Super Abs
5-6 p.m. Water Fitness
5:45-6:45 p.m. Cardio Step

Dec. 23
9-10 a.m. Senior Fitness
10-10:30 a.m. Weight Loss
5-5:45 p.m. Yoga Pilates
5:45-6:45 p.m. Body Sculpture & Abs

Dec. 24
9-10 a.m. Water Fitness
4:45-5:15 p.m. Super Abs
5-6 p.m. Water Fitness
5:45-6:45 p.m. Cardio Kick Boxing

Dec. 25 - Closed

Dec. 26
9-10 a.m. Water Fitness
5-6 p.m. Water Fitness

Dec. 29
9-10 a.m. Water Fitness
4:45-5:15 p.m. Super Abs
5-6 p.m. Water Fitness
5:45-6:45 p.m. Cardio Step

Dec. 30
9-10 a.m. Senior Fitness
10-10:30 a.m. Weight Loss
5-5:45 p.m. Yoga Pilates
5:45-6:45 p.m. Body Sculpture & Abs

Dec. 31
9-10 a.m. Water Fitness
4:45-5:15 p.m. Super Abs
5-6 p.m. Water Fitness
5:45-6:45 p.m. Cardio Kick Boxing

Jan. 1 - Closed

Jan. 2
9-10 a.m. Water Fitness
5-6 p.m. Water Fitness



Fort Freebies

Freebies are published on a first come, first serve basis. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods and privately owned property, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve component military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, contact Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to: news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or fax to 221-1198. Ensure your military/Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appears on request.

For Sale: Two home gyms, mock imitation of the Bowflex and a free-weight gym, up to 100 lbs. Call Frank Castro at 391-6004.

For Sale: Bundy clarinet in good condition, \$60. Call 590-2126.

For Sale: Ping pong table with accessories, new, never used, \$60; large TV stand, black, glass door and shelving, \$50; glass sofa table, new condition, \$75; Hewlitt Packard printer, \$40; assorted decorative wall mirrors, \$20 up. Call 535-3635.

For Sale: Frigidaire upright freezer, 14 cubic ft., \$150. Call 646-8472 after 5:30 p.m.

For Sale: 2003 Ford F-150 XLT, extended cab, automatic, black with beige interior, 18K miles, warranty, alarm, 6 CD changer, and more. Take over payments. Call 378-3621 or 641-0074.

For Sale: 2000 Honda Insight Hybrid, 2-door, 5-speed, new condition, 33,000 miles, has many options, \$11,500 obo; Christmas turkey platter, very large, made in England by Johnson Bros, cost \$349.95, sell for \$100 firm. Call 646-7371.

For Sale: Contica heavy-duty plastic truck box, like new, lockable, \$50. Call 223-5559 or cell at 364-0537.

For Sale: 2001 Toyota Tacoma Doublecab, V-6, 41K miles, PW, PL, trailer package, many

more options, \$17,350. Call 771-2406.

For Sale: 30" GE gas cook top, black, never used, \$150; Jennair 30" downdraft cook top, almost new, \$200. Call 656-3289.

For Sale: 2000 Toyota Solara Coupe, V-6, AT, white, 74K miles, \$9,800; 2000 Mercury Mountaineer Monterey, V-8, Black/gold, tan leather, 58K miles, \$12,500. Call 545-5100 or 262-8171.

For Sale: 1994 Suzuki GSX-R Sport Bike; custom bike, custom painted, runs great, \$3,800; Sanyo microwave oven, still in original box, \$65; rims with tires, 4 each (15"), for 98 Jeep Grand Cherokee, \$300; Schlage home security system with remote control, new, unopened, \$80; Visioneer 8900 scanner/printer; still in original box, \$60. Call 493-8420.

For Rent: Large 1 bedroom duplex with living room, dining room front and back porch hardwood floors throughout, located off Broadway Blvd. within walking distance to Fort Sam post and bus stop, \$490 for military, \$525 for non-military. Call 916-2482, 822-6592.

For Rent: Townhouse, 2,056 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 carports, and patio with swimming pool, located at 1196 Garraty Rd. at Harry Wurzbach, across from FSH Golf Course, \$1,600 per month. Call Todd at 977-4641 or 822-6064.



Career Clips



The Army Career and Alumni Program office provides numerous services to eligible people in transition including job assistance. Information on these and other positions is available to ACAP customers in the ACAP office, Bldg. 2264 or call 221-1213.

Recreation Therapist - San Antonio. Experience in mental health or inpatient setting preferred. Therapeutic recreation groups with all ages in a psychiatric inpatient setting. Performs assessments and is a member of treatment team.

Physical Therapist - Hondo. Develops and implements effective patient treatment plans to restore, compensate, or adapt for loss of patient function. Plans and administers medically prescribed therapy treatments.

Health Coach/Clinical Operations Analyst - San Antonio. Provide telephonic and web navigation support to callers. Provide clinical assessment, health coaching related to specific conditions, necessary education pertinent to improving health.

2004 ACAP Civilian Workshop Schedule

The Army Career and Alumni Program staff conduct Resume Writing and Interviewing Workshops for DoD civilian employees and their family members who may be contemplating leaving federal service. The monthly workshops are scheduled now until the implementation of the Most Efficient Organization (MEO).

Workshop dates include: Jan. 28, Feb. 11 and March 10. For information or to register, call 221-1213.

Note: Workshops will be cancelled and clients rescheduled if there are less than 10 confirmed attendees one week prior to the scheduled workshop. Register now and get your friends/coworkers to do the same. Additional sessions will be scheduled if necessary.

Holiday Operating Hours

Officers' Club

Closed Dec. 22 through Jan. 3 (except for catered events)

NCO Club

Closed Dec. 21 through Jan. 5 (except for catered events)

Golf Club

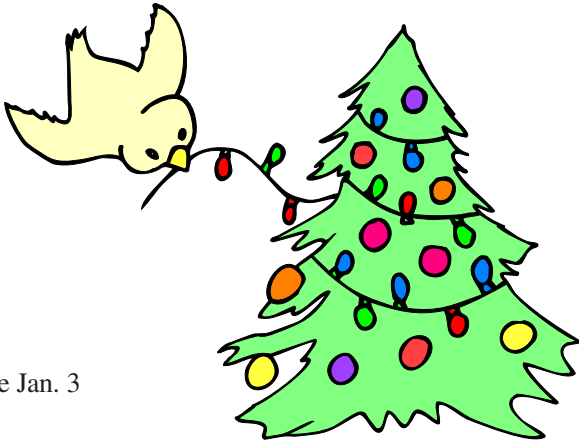
Close at Noon on Dec. 24
Closed Dec. 25
Close at Noon on Dec. 31
Closed Jan. 1

Bowling Center

Closed Dec. 23-26
Open Dec. 27, 2-10 p.m.
Open Dec. 28, 2-9 p.m.
Closed Dec. 29 through Jan. 1
Open Jan. 2, 2-9 p.m.
Resume normal operating schedule Jan. 3

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

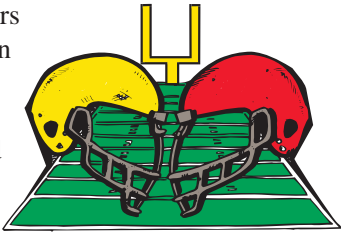
Closed Dec. 21 through Jan. 1
Resume normal operating hours Jan. 2



Monday Night Football

The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club offers Monday Night Football and "All You Can Eat Pizza" while you watch the game. The cost is \$7 per person and non-military guests are welcome. Come early and hit golf balls at the Driving Range before the game kicks off.

For more information, call 221-4388.





Community events

Harlequin presents ‘My Three Angels,’ now through Dec. 20

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre at Fort Sam Houston will present “My Three Angels,” a comedy by Sam and Bella Spewak, Wednesday through Saturday evenings now through Dec. 20. Prices are \$25.95 on Friday and Saturday and \$22.95 on Wednesday and Thursday. Discounts are available for military and students. Cocktails and salad bar are served at 6:15 p.m., dinner from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and show time is 8 p.m. For reservations, call 222-9694 or visit the theatre in advance. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. Theatre is handicapped accessible.

SAROA Christmas Dinner/Dance, Dec. 16

The San Antonio Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will host a Christmas Dinner/Dance on Dec. 16, 6:30-10 p.m. at the Randolph Air Force Base Officers Club. Music will be by Betty and Eric. The cost is \$22 per person. For reservations, call 228-9955 or 228-9956. Send reservations to: SAROA, PO Box 8037, San Antonio, Texas 78208.

S.A. Mastersingers open 2003-2004 Season, Dec. 20

The San Antonio Mastersingers open the 2003-2004 season with Handel’s Messiah on Dec. 20 at University United Methodist Church, with local symphony orchestra players and vocal soloists, Gail Wettstein, Cindy Sadler, Michael Burgess, and Timothy Jones. For information, call 366-3754 or visit their Web site at samastersingers.org.

Auditions for ‘Steel Magnolias’ at Harlequin

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will hold open auditions on Jan. 12 and 13, 7-8:30 p.m. for Steel Magnolias, with Bruce E. Shirky directing. There are roles for six women. Other volunteers are needed as light and sound technicians, props and stage crew. Performances will be Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Feb. 25 through March 27. Those who come to auditions should enter Fort Sam Houston through the Walters Street gate. For more information, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694.

‘Murder at the Vicarage’ at Harlequin Dinner Theatre

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre is featuring ‘Murder at the Vicarage’ a mystery by Agatha Christie, Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Jan. 14 through Feb. 14. Prices are \$25.95 on Fridays and Saturdays and \$22.95 on Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are discounts for military and students. The theatre opens for salad bar and cocktails at 6:15 p.m., the buffet is open from 6:30-7:30, and curtain is at 8 p.m. For reservations, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694. The box office is open from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Theatre is handicapped accessible.

Volunteers

Join Cub Scouts Pack 23

Join the adventure! Boys who are in first grade through 5th grade can be involved in scouting. The program provides common interest for the boys and their families. There’s fishing, swimming, archery, BB’s,

pinewood derby cars and most of all camping. Come and join the fun! For information, call Cindy Mathis at 826-1730 or e-mail at cubscouts23@sbcglobal.net.

Otras Cosas

Notice to all generators, reutilization or sales customers

DRMO San Antonio announces the following amended hours of operation: Nov. 26, Turn ins, RTD by appointment only. Call 221-3657, 221-3651 or 221-3662 to schedule appointment. Nov. 27 and 28 closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday. For information, call Barbara Roberts at 221-3738 or Mary Rocha at 221-3657.

Donate Use or lose leave

We are nearing the end of the leave year and many employees will have annual leave they are unable to use prior to January 10, 2004. Employees who would like to donate annual leave to leave donor recipients are limited to donating no more than the equivalent of the number of hours they are scheduled to work during the remainder of the leave year. Also, DFAS is asking that leave donations be made as early as possible to allow adequate time for processing prior to the end of the leave year. For information, call Lou Ann Reiser at 221-2489 or Roy Perez at 221-0639.

Scholarship applications now being accepted

Established in 1992, the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund supports college-bound seniors or full- and part-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian, or dependent community. Independent evaluators will judge 600-800 word essays. Applications may be obtained at Brooks City-Base, Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases and Fort Sam Houston libraries, education offices, or Family Support Centers. Applications and essays are due at 1 p.m., February 4, 2004. The scholarships will range from \$500 to \$1,000 and will be awarded at the Scholarship Luncheon, February 25, 2004, 11:15 a.m. at Brooks Air Force Base. For more information, call Lt. Lorrie C. Carter at 536-4896 or Lt. Goldie Boone at 536-6727 or visit the Web site www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/.

Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship information available

Keith Toney, Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Officer, has information on the 2004 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship. Bernard, the 11-year-old son of Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Bernard Curtis Brown, was killed on September 11, 2001, when the hijacked airliner on which he was a passenger, crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. At the time, he was on his way to represent his school at a National Geographic event. The Military Child Education Coalition funds the scholarship. For information, call Keith Toney at 221-9613 or visit the MCEC Web site at www.spacecamp.com.

Direct commissioning program available

The U.S. Army Health Care Recruiting Team is looking for qualified applicants for their direct commissioning program. Anyone working toward a bachelors’ degree in any science, nursing, physics, nutrition or engineering may qualify to become an Army officer. Interested individuals can apply at anytime. The program is open to active duty, reserve, National Guard and civilians. For information, call Capt. Beverly S. Casiano at 692-7376 or 834-7879 or e-mail at Beverly.Casiano@usarec.army.mil.

Check out the new improved ACAP Web site

The Army Career and Alumni Program Web page has been upgraded. There is much more information now available for transitioners, employers and Army leaders. All are encouraged to take a look at the Web site and see what might be useful to you, www.acap.army.mil.

¿Que Pasa?

In the classroom

DMRTI to host course January 11-16, 2004

The Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute will host the Joint Operations Medical Managers Course at the Hilton Austin Airport in Austin, Texas. For course information, contact Tech. Sgt. Ramirez at 221-9218. To register, call Master Sgt. Rodriguez at 221-9029.

Free computer training for family members

Family Member Employment Assistance offers free computer training for family members. Morning and afternoon training session are available on all Microsoft Office software and much more. Appointments are required. For information, call Pat Forgy at 221-0516.

ESL classes for foreign-born spouses are back

English as a second language classes will be held every Monday and Wednesday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797. These classes are for foreign-born spouses to increase reading comprehension, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Classes are appropriate for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Region 20 Education Center and the Army Community Service Relocation Program sponsor classes. For information, call 221-2418.

Installation Sergeant Audie Murphy Board

Meetings

set for Jan. 12

The next Installation Sergeant Audie Murphy Board will be held on January 12, 2004, in the AMEDD Center and School Conference Room, Room 305. For more information, see your unit’s First Sergeant or Command Sergeant Major.

Purple Heart veterans sought

Purple Heart Veterans are invited to join the meeting of Military Order of the Purple Heart on the first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center to learn more about combat related entitlements and claims benefits. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Bring your DD For 214 and a short biography.

USAWOA - Lone Star Chapter meetings

The Lone Star Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at VFW Post #8541, 2222 Austin Highway (between Eisenhower and Walzem Road). All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard and family members of current or former Warrant Officers are invited to attend. For information, call WO1 Matthew Watterson at 295-8773 or e-mail matthew.watterson@us.army.mil.

FSH Sergeants Major Association seeks new members

The Fort Sam Houston Sergeants Major Association meets every third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m. in the FSH NCO Club. Retired Sgt. Maj. Howard T. Ray, president of the association, extends a cordial invitation to all Active Duty and retired command sergeants major, sergeants major and master sergeants on the promotion list from all service branches to attend the meetings and share in the relaxed atmosphere of our social activities. For membership information, call Sgt. Maj. Hector Viczaino at 221-7305.

Calling all single Soldiers to join BOSS

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month, 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldier input to the commander, who uses the committee’s recommendations to improve single Soldiers’ Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For information, call BOSS President Kimberly Vaughan at 916-1772 or BOSS Program Manager Ben Paniagua at 224-7250.